

Chief of Armor Hatch: What Are We Doing to Make Sure We Remain Mission Ready?

As part of our legacy as Soldiers, we have dealt with hardship, adversity and trying times from Concord to Arracourt to Baghdad. Readiness remains the Army’s top priority. More than ever, as Armor and Cavalry leaders, our personnel and equipment have to be prepared to fight and win our nation’s wars. Being mission ready is arguably the commander’s greatest responsibility, both to the nation and to the Soldiers we lead.

My top priority is ensuring that our Armor and Cavalry leaders and Soldiers receive the best institutional training available regardless of the operating environment. As I study both the Army as a whole and the current COVID-19 challenges, I’m reminded that the Army does not stop moving because of a difficult environment or challenging conditions. Our leaders have the responsibility to continue to develop Soldiers daily. Operational readiness does not take a pause because of rough conditions. Recently, GEN Paul Funk, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command commander, stated, “Training during crisis shows our adversaries that we are always ready.”

The current operating environment, and future environment when we mitigate the COVID impacts, will require adaptive leaders that can break with a “business as usual” approach and develop innovative ways to train without unnecessary risk to the force or the mission. The construct I use to drive the Armor School centers on asking “What is the problem, and what must we do to shift from the current to future endstate?” Figure 1 is the Army Design Methodology that graphically depicts the process.

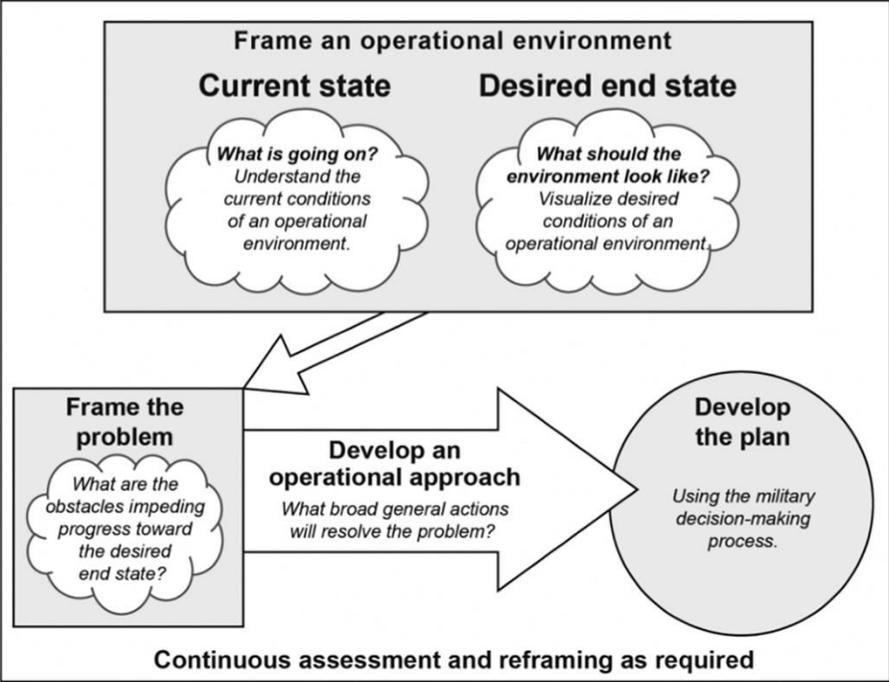


Figure 1. Army Design Methodology. (From Army Doctrinal Publication 5-0, *The Operations Process*: Figure 2-4. activities of Army design methodology)

Our current problem is, “What actions are we taking to ensure we’re mission ready given today’s operating environment?” There are multiple broad, general actions to resolve the problem, and all of them will increase our operational readiness.

We can dedicate time and effort toward distributed leader-development programs to prepare to send leaders to professional-military-education courses and improve our leader readiness. We can focus on maintenance in the motorpool or complete services to improve our equipment readiness. Ranges are available, and social distancing is easy to practice in austere environments. Look no further than the myriad of posts on social media (Figure 2) of

different units and centers of excellence continuing to train and validate the future Soldiers and leaders of this nation. We can ensure that Soldiers are taking care of their families and leaders are promoting family readiness during a particularly angst-filled time.

1st Cavalry Division @1stCavalryDiv

#Greywolf Troopers are slowly getting back to training while still maintaining proper distancing and sanitation.

#FirstTeam #LiveTheLegend #CavLethal



7:15 PM · May 11, 2020 · Hootsuite Inc.

12 Retweets 75 Likes

Red Knight 6, Commander, 1-81 AR @RedKnightHQ66 · May 11

Enforcer Company studying machine guns and pistols, Armored Fighting Vehicle Identification, and Ammunition Identification in the company area.



1 Retweet 22 Likes

TRADOC_DCG @TradocDCG · May 14

This is how you adapt to COVID conditions. I smell a "switched on" NCO, and an engaged chain of command. said the impressed DCG.

@DogFaceSoldier @broadcastmike @TRADOC @FORSCOM

Dysha Barcliff @BarcliffDysha · May 14

Executed Operation OO7 today, @mac_tremblay initiative. 7 hours of outdoor training/activities. Urban Land Navigation. #NewNormal #ProtectTheForce @USAGHumphreys



2 Comments 3 Retweets 34 Likes

Red Knight 6, Commander, 1-81 AR @RedKnightHQ66

Live Engine Bay training for our 91M Bradley Fighting Vehicle System Maintainers at the Bradley Training Division, OTD 1-81 AR BN. #ArmorReady



11:50 AM · Apr 30, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

2 Retweets 12 Likes

Figure 2. Examples of social-media posts on continuing training during Coronavirus-19 conditions.

The plan is only as good as the people executing it. I encourage you and your formations to continue to look for ways to improve your combat readiness – personnel, equipment, training, leader and family. When others shut down, the U.S. Army continues to be the stalwart defender of the nation. Are you still Armor Ready?

Lastly, in May we farewelled CSM Kevin J. Muhlenbeck with a combined change of responsibility/retirement ceremony. CSM Muhlenbeck has been a tremendous asset to the U.S. Army Armor School and our Army, and will be missed. He's worked closely with senior noncommissioned officers across the Maneuver Center of Excellence to ensure that the Armor School delivers trained, disciplined and ready NCOs and Soldiers.

I'm looking forward to seeing the great things that CSM Tony Towns will bring to the table as the new Thunderbolt 7. CSM Towns is joining us from 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss, TX.

Forge the Thunderbolt!

BG KEVIN D. ADMIRAL
Chief of Armor/Commandant
U.S. Army Armor School